

LBNL-UC System Libraries Interdependencies

A Current Report, February, 2004

Date released: February 26, 2004

Authors: Jane Tierney, LBNL, ITSD-TEID Dept. Head; Carol Backhus, LBNL Retired Head Librarian.

The staff of Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL) gains considerable benefit from the Lab's affiliation with the University of California's library system. The UC library system is one of the largest information centers in the world and, because of its size and reputation, is able to negotiate for services in ways smaller institutions cannot. Four years ago, the Berkeley Lab Library and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Library entered into discussion with the California Digital Library (CDL - the systemwide UC unit responsible for providing electronic resources to all campuses) about the possibility of CDL representing us in some of their negotiations with publishers.

As a result CDL and the two California UC Administered Labs now have a business arrangement whereby, for a fee, CDL negotiates with selected publishers on our behalf. In most of these cases, the publishers look at the Labs as units of UC and give us access to the same material as they do to the other campuses. This has provided the researchers at Berkeley Lab with access to far more electronic resources than the LBNL Library would be able to provide on its own. As an example, Elsevier Science is the largest publisher of scientific journals in the world. LBNL subscribes to 45 Elsevier titles. If LBNL were not a part of the UC agreement, it would have online access to only those 45 titles and only for a rolling period of the last nine months of issues. Because of LBNL's affiliation with CDL, the researchers have access to all [1200 Elsevier titles](#) and, in almost all cases, back to the first volume of each title. LBNL pays about the same for access to these titles as other DOE Lab libraries, but has access to about 400 more Elsevier titles than the others do, with the exception of Los Alamos National Lab.

Other examples of publishers giving LBNL access to their full title list, even though Berkeley Lab doesn't subscribe to all of them, include the [American Chemical Society](#), the [Nature Publishing Company](#), and the [Association for Computing Machinery](#). Access to all these titles has enabled LBNL to boost the Lab's collection in research areas that are not as well covered by the LBNL library resources. This is especially true in the biomedical and computing fields.

In addition to journal titles, Berkeley Lab researchers have access to several scientific article databases through the CDL. The LBNL Library pays for access to these much-used databases, but the cost is approximately half of what Berkeley Lab would have to pay if it were to subscribe directly with the vendors. Examples include INSPEC and Current Contents. LBNL can also take advantage of the technology developed by CDL that allows quick and easy access from these scientific databases to the full text of journal

articles. Also from these databases, users can request interlibrary loan services and access to the CDL MELVYL™ catalog. Because of LBNL Library's small staff size, it has been impossible so far for LBNL Library to provide such services alone.

LBNL Library has also been given free access to some databases through CDL that, because of limited usage, we could not justify purchasing ourselves. But these databases provide access to business, psychology, and general science articles that researchers occasionally need but which are unavailable in the library collection. Examples include Expanded Academic Index and ABI/Inform.

Because of LBNL's affiliation with UC, Berkeley Lab is allowed to load our book and journal cataloging records onto [MELVYL](#), the UC union catalog. This makes our records available to anyone with Internet access. It also gives us the opportunity to use the full text linking available through the MELVYL system.

Even with access to so many more full text journals and databases, researchers still need information that they cannot get from their desktop or from the Berkeley Lab Library. This means that the LBNL Library staff must locate the information, mostly journal articles, and get the information to the researcher in a timely manner. During the period 2000 to 2003, the LBNL Library staff obtained 5,337 books and journal articles for researchers. Fifty percent of them were obtained free of charge from a UC campus library. If LBNL had gone to another library or information provider, Berkeley Lab would have had to pay for the information. By going through UC libraries, the Lab avoided approximately \$70K in costs.

Because of LBNL's proximity to one of the world's finest library systems, researchers find it very useful and easy to go to the Berkeley campus libraries to obtain information that they cannot get through the LBNL library. Unlike the general public or other local organizations, Berkeley Lab staff members can obtain free UCB library cards. Approximately 250 employees take advantage of this privilege.

LBNL Library and Archives and Records staff have good working relationships with their corresponding colleagues on the UCB campus. The LBNL Library staff is in frequent communication with the various UCB Libraries on campus. Because there are so many joint appointments between the Lab and UCB, the LBNL Archives and Records group works cooperatively with the Bancroft Library and the University Archives to ensure that each group gets the records to which they are entitled.

Within the next month or so, the LBNL Library will start submitting LBNL technical reports to CDL's new eScholarship project. [eScholarship](#) is an electronic repository for research and scholarly output, including pre-publication materials and peer-reviewed content. These LBNL reports are currently available through the LBNL Library website and through DOE's Information Bridge, but additional coverage through such an important academic forum will greatly increase access to Berkeley Lab's intellectual output.